

Our logo – OK biodegradable MARINE What does it mean?

**OK BIODEGRADABLE MARINE:
GUARANTEE THE CLAIM OF
BIODEGRADABILITY IN THE MARINE
ENVIRONMENT**



The OK biodegradable MARINE certificate provides an answer to such manufacturers or suppliers who offer marine biodegradable products and want to have their claim verified by an independent third party.

Being well aware of misunderstandings that can however easily arise amongst consumers, the OK biodegradable MARINE certification scheme makes a clear distinction between:

1. **Certification of the claim** of marine biodegradation and
2. **Authorization to communicate** about this certification.

Only for a very limited group of products, authorization to communicate on the product about the OK biodegradable MARINE certificate is allowed. It concerns products that are actually used in the marine environment (e.g. fishing line, fishing baits, cull panel, etc.) and therefore their marine biodegradability can actually be a real interest for their consumers.

Mentioning the OK biodegradable MARINE logo on all other products that could possibly encourage the customer to marine littering is not allowed. For these products marine biodegradability is an unknown functionality with an intrinsic added value: if it inadvertently ends up in the marine environment, it will be utilized by microorganisms.

Applying the fact that most of the marine debris is land based, marine biodegradability is an added value to any product or packaging regardless of where it is consumed. The chance that it eventually lands up at sea will always exist. Any supplier who invests in adding this functionality to his product or packaging should have the opportunity to have this information verified according to international standards. This verification is not only a reference to harmonize the claim but also offers the supplier the opportunity to distinguish his truly marine biodegradable product from any doubtful claim of his competitors.

OK biodegradable MARINE test procedure in a nutshell

Before products are certified for biodegradability in the marine environment, they are tested in four different ways.

Disintegration

The disintegration test verifies whether or not the product sufficiently fragments. In concrete terms, it means that after a period of 2.5 months (84 days) 90% of the test material is sufficiently fragmented to pass through a sieve of 2 to 2 mm.

Biodegradation

The biodegradation test verifies whether the test item actually completely breaks down to the level of CO₂ and H₂O molecules. 90% of the product must be converted into these molecules within 6 months in the marine environment. This test is performed in an environment of salt water with an inoculum of natural seawater.

Ecotoxicity

The ecotoxicity tests verifies whether the degraded test material exerts no negative influence on marine aquatic organisms (invertebrates, daphnia, fish, algae or cyanobacteria).

Content of heavy metals and fluor

The same limits apply to heavy metals and fluorine as in the European standard for compostability (EN 13432). In addition, there is a limitation for cobalt.

Applicable standards

- ASTM D 7081-05 (Standard Specification for Non-Floating Biodegradable Plastics in the Marine Environment)
- ASTM D 6691 (Standard Test Method for Determining Aerobic Biodegradation of Plastic Materials in the Marine Environment by a Defined Microbial Consortium or Natural Sea Water Inoculum)

Contact information – where to apply for the OK biodegradable MARINE certificate?

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